



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

AUG 10 2007

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AUG 17 2007

SURFACE WATER
QUALITY BUREAU

Marcy Leavitt, Chief
Surface Water Quality Bureau
State of New Mexico Environment Department
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

Re: Approval of the TMDL for the Rio Puerco Watershed (Cibola County) - Arroyo Chijuilla to Northern boundary of Cuba

Dear Ms. Leavitt:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 has reviewed the final total maximum daily loads (TMDL) transmitted to Miguel Flores on December 1, 2006, for a segment of the Rio Puerco. EPA is pleased to approve the Rio Puerco (Arroyo Chijuilla to Northern boundary of Cuba) based on application of the narrative criterion found in Subsection A of 20.6.4 13 of the State of New Mexico Administrative Code.

Waterbody Name / 303(d) List ID	Pollutant	Wasteload Allocation	Load Allocation	Margin of Safety	TMDL
		(Expressed as Percent Fine Sediment)			
Rio Puerco Arroyo Chijuilla to Northern boundary of Cuba (NM-2107.A_40)	Stream bottom deposits – as stated as sedimentation/ siltation	0 (% fines)	16 (% fines)	4.0 (% fines)	20 (% fines)

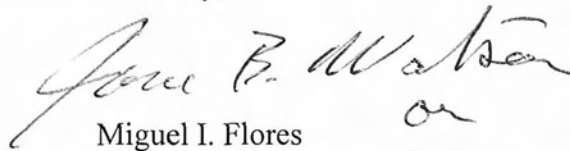
This decision includes the load allocation assigned on this listed water. Our analysis indicates that this allocation has been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of water quality standards.

This approval action involves a total of 1 TMDL for water quality limited segment on New Mexico's 1996-1998 §303(d). Included in this TMDL submittal was a TMDL Implementation Plan. Presently, EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation plans under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Therefore, EPA is taking no action to approve or disapprove the TMDL Implementation Plans submitted by NMED.

We appreciated the opportunity to work closely with NMED throughout the development of these TMDLs. We have been impressed with the dedication and technical rigor which they have brought to this process. In particular, Heidi Henderson, Shelly Lemon, Michael Coleman and Lynette Guevara should be commended for their efforts.

We look forward to implementation of these TMDLs, and continuing to work collaboratively with NMED on water quality issues in the Rio Puerco watershed. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (214) 665-7101, or you may call Curry Jones of my staff at (214) 665-6793.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Miguel I. Flores", with a small "on" written below it.

Miguel I. Flores
Director,
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosures